

1.-22. Previously cancelled.

23. (Currently amended)

A method of assisting a compromised barrier, comprising:

- a) providing a gasket comprising fire retardant material of a fire resistant insulative material containing mineral wool, ceramic fiber or intumescent graphite;
- b) placing the fire retardant gasket between a faceplate and an electrical box adapted to be introduced into the barrier;
- c) coupling the faceplate to the box; and
- d) at least partially reestablishing a fire rating of the barrier.

24. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, further comprising coupling the gasket in situ between the faceplate and the box.

25. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, wherein providing the gasket comprises forming the gasket as a separate element prior to placing the gasket between the faceplate and the box.

26. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, further comprising forming the gasket on one or more surfaces of the faceplate prior to coupling the faceplate to the box.

27. (Previously added)

The method of claim 26, wherein the gasket is formed by establishing a coating of the fire retardant material onto the faceplate.

28.-29. (Cancelled)

30.-34. (Previously Canceled)

35.-36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A method of assisting a compromised barrier, comprising:

- a) installing into a fire-rated barrier an electrical box, the electrical box compromising the fire resistance of the fire-rated barrier;
- b) introducing into the electrical box ~~a layer consisting of~~ a fire retardant gasket of a fire resistant insulative material containing mineral wool, ceramic fiber or intumescent graphite; and
- c) covering the electrical box with a faceplate.

38. (Previously added) The method of Claim 37, wherein the fire retardant gasket is adhered to the faceplate prior to covering the electrical box with the faceplate.

39. (Canceled.)

40. (Previously added) The method of Claim 37, wherein the fire retardant gasket is introduced to the electrical box without removing the electrical box from the fire resistant barrier.

41.-45. (Canceled)